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AMENDMENTS TO AND LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for welding together at least two components of a disk drive head suspension, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) positioning a first component, having an edge surface, a first major surface and a ~~top~~second major surface that opposes the first major surface and is spaced apart from the first major surface by the edge surface, with respect to a second component having a surface with a perimeter, such that the surface of the second component is in overlapping ~~contacts~~ contact with at least a portion of the first major surface of the first component, and at least a portion of the perimeter of the surface of the second component extends beyond the edge surface of the first component; and
 - b) forming an edge weld at the edge surface, such that the edge weld extends beyond the edge surface into the ~~top~~ second major surface of the first component and into the surface of the second component.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein step b) further includes generally centering the edge weld on the edge surface of the first component.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes applying welding energy from a side of the components on which the edge surface is located.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes applying welding energy from a side of the components that is opposite a side of the components on which the edge surface is located.
5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes applying laser energy.

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6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes spot welding.
7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes causing a portion of both the first and second components to flow.
8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a flexure and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.
9. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a spring region and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.
10. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a spring region and the other of the first and second components comprises a mounting region.
11. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a spring region and the other of the first and second components comprises a flexure.
12. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a stiffener and the other of the first and second components comprises a flexure.
13. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a stiffener and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.
14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second components is fabricated from stainless steel.

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15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second components is an integrated lead suspension component.
16. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second components comprises an integrated lead flexure and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.
17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising simultaneously affixing at least a third component to at least one of the first and second components by the edge weld.
18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes applying laser energy.
19. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 18 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a flexure and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.
20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein the flexure and the load beam are fabricated from stainless steel.
21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 20 wherein the step of forming the edge weld includes applying the laser energy from a side of the assembled components opposite a side with the exposed edge surface at which the edge weld is formed.
22. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 18 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a stiffener and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.
23. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 further comprising simultaneously affixing at least a third component to at least one of the flexure and the load beam.
24. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 23 wherein the third component comprises a spring region.

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25. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 23 wherein the third component comprises a stiffener.

26. (WITHDRAWN) A disk drive head suspension assembly including a first component having an edge and a major surface, and a second component having a surface with a perimeter, with the first and second components attached together by at least one weld made by the steps of:

a) positioning the first component with respect to the second component such that the surface of the second component contacts the major surface of the first component, and the perimeter of the surface of the second component extends beyond the edge of the first component; and

b) forming an edge weld at the edge, such that the edge weld extends beyond the edge onto the first and second components.

27. (WITHDRAWN) The disk drive head suspension assembly of claim 26 wherein step b) further includes forming the edge weld by applying laser energy.

28. (WITHDRAWN) A method for welding together components of a disk drive head suspension, the method comprising forming a weld between a first component, comprising a sheet material portion having an edge and a major surface, and a second component, having a surface with a perimeter, such that the surface of the second component contacts the major surface of the first component, and the perimeter of the surface of the second component extends beyond the edge of the first component, the weld being formed at the edge of the sheet material portion.

29. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 28, wherein forming the weld comprises forming a plurality of weld portions along the edge of the sheet material portion, and further comprises leaving un-welded portions along the edge and between the weld portions.

30. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of forming a plurality of weld portions comprises spot-welding.

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31. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 28 wherein forming the weld includes applying welding energy from a side of the components on which the edge is located.
32. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 28 wherein forming the weld includes applying welding energy from a side of the components that is opposite a side of the components on which the edge is located.
33. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 28 wherein forming the weld includes applying laser energy.
34. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 28 wherein one of the first and second components comprises a flexure and the other of the first and second components comprises a load beam.